

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
SERIAL NO. 09/756,881
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q62603

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner and his supervisor for participating in the personal interview conducted by Applicant's representative on April 28, 2003. Applicant is confident that the Examiner's kind attention and consideration during the interview will help hasten the final disposition of this application.

In conformance with Applicant's duty to describe the substance of the interview, Applicant notes that claim 1 was discussed vis-à-vis one of the embodiments of the invention, and also vis-à-vis the Oda reference. Applicant's representative pointed out that Oda does not use a fixing signal to make it so that a group does not form a drop. Instead, Oda uses a particular addressing scheme. Applicant's representative pointed out that Oda does not contain any teaching or suggestion of providing the fixing signal to the drive means instead of the record data.

During the interview, the Examiner pointed out some possible areas of confusion in the particular language of the claim, and in the use of the term "fixing signal." In this Supplemental Amendment, Applicant has changed the claim language to avoid such confusion, and amended the specification so as to provide appropriate antecedent basis for "fixing signal" in the specification and to explain how "fixing signal" is a type of "mode fixing signal" that is sent when (in the relevant embodiments) a group is not to form a dot.

During the interview, the Examiner asked about claim 18. Applicant's representative agreed to reconsider the language of the claim and the arguments in favor of patentability. The claim has been revised for improved clarity, and to more specifically define the requirements as to the groups of the dot formation means, and the particular manner in which they are used. It is respectfully submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the arrangement of groups described in the part of the claim following "wherein."

For the above-identified reasons, and the reasons mentioned in the previously-filed Amendment, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the outstanding prior art rejections of the claims now on file.


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Applicant herein adds new claim 22. New claim 22 is respectfully submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art in view of its requirement for fixing all the groups to form a dot, and doing so by outputting to all the groups a fixing signal instead of the record data.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: May 5, 2003

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